

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

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EVALUATION 25X1PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED 15 September 1952REFERENCES PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. On 25 July 1952, the guns which were previously observed in the AA gun emplacement on the western edge of Cottbus airfield were no longer emplaced there but parked side-by-side, with their gun barrels in horizontal position. Twelve guns, probably of 76-mm caliber, were observed there. Source believed that the guns belonged to an AA unit quartered in the former Luftnachrichten Kaserne north of Cottbus-Burg road. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and artillery insignia were repeatedly observed on the way to this barracks installation and the nearby construction site. Up to 5 August, six emplaced guns were counted in the AA gun emplacement south of the field. The shrapnelproof revetments were covered with sod. On 5 August, the emplacement was vacated. (1) Also on 5 August, no aircraft were parked on the landing field. There was no flying. (1)

2. The following vehicles were observed in the fenced-in area, probably a collecting point for empty containers, along the Spreewald railway: sedans with a trailer and trucks

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3. On 25 July, the last Pe-2 planes at the field. On 26 July, only five jet bombers were parked there. On 1 August, no aircraft were observed at the field. (1) Between midnight and 3 a.m. on 9 August, individual jet bombers with position lights flew over Cottbus at an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 meters. Between 7 and 10 a.m., practice flights were made by jet bombers at an estimated altitude of from 6,000 to 8,000 meters. (2)

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4. There was intensive vehicular traffic to the field up to 9 August. Most of the drivers wore blue epaulets. Some VP vehicles, occupied by VP men and Russians, were also observed en route to the field. The VP-men wore service caps, yellow and green shirts and blue trousers. Young VP-men marched to the field on 9 August. (3)

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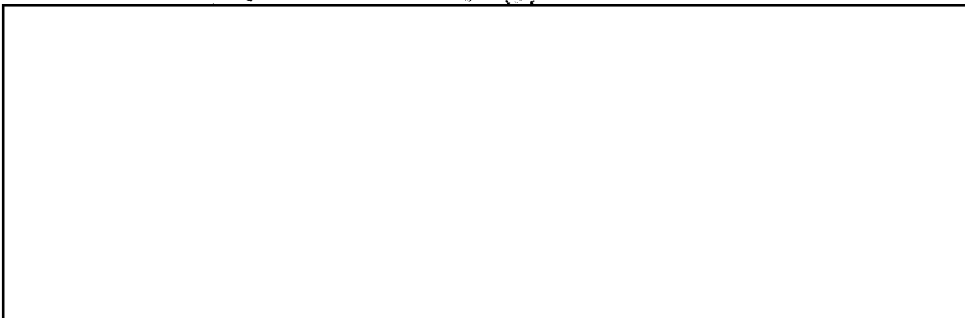
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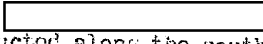


5. At the site of the AA battery having 85-mm guns which were about to be moved were two objects: one probably was a computer, and the other object probably was a range finder. It had a horizontal barrel 2 to 2.5 meters long and was mounted on a vertical pedestal. The presumed computer was 50 to 60 meters east of the AA guns and the presumed range finder was 25 to 30 meters north of the data computer. (b)
6. The previously reported insignia worn by an officer on his right breast represented a vertical blue bomb on a golden clasp. The same officer wore on both cuffs a golden embroidered patch, similar to the infantry collar patch formerly worn by German Army officers. His visor cap had a golden serrate braid, about 1 cm wide. (5)

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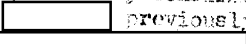
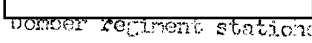
8. The personnel at the field was transferred between 25 July and 1 August. On 26, 28, 29 July and 1 August respectively, a train loaded with many trucks, mainly tank trucks, furniture of all types, equipment, fire extinguishers, trucks and boxes left toward the west. During the same period, usually at night, many trucks drove toward Berlin. (1) Billeting equipment, trunks and boxes arrived at the field by rail on 30 July. The railroad cars were unloaded between 30 July and 1 August. A shipment of about 20 trucks, 27 boxcars with about 200 ET, including some female personnel, and material of all types arrived at the field on 1 August. (7)
9. In late July, the personnel at the field was being exchanged. The new personnel arrived at the same time when the old personnel left taking all the billeting equipment. (1)
10. On 9 August,  a board fence, about 2 meters high, was being constructed along the southern and eastern field borders. Work was also started on the fence along the western boundary. Brick buildings were under construction at the main entrance to the field. Two of them were completed by 10 August.

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Comments.

- (1) The bomber regiment at Cottbus airfield was transferred to Jüterbog Altes Lager in late July 1952. It has not been determined whether the AA units also moved to Jüterbog Altes Lager or to another location. The transfer of the bomber regiment to Jüterbog was previously confirmed by another report, according to which five aircraft  previously observed in Cottbus, appeared in Jüterbog. 
- (2) These aircraft are probably assigned to the bomber regiment stationed in Brand, which practiced night flying.

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- (3) The described uniform is worn by Volkspolizei and the East German border police. So far, it was not known that VP Dienststellen were located in Cottbus. Since Cottbus has become the seat of a Bezirk administration it is believed possible that a VPD was roved there. Elements of this unit may be located temporarily at the airfield.
- (4) The separate location of the computer and the range finder indicates that it is of the Luaso-3 type with an FM lgr type range finder. The length of the horizontal barrel must be 4 meters instead of only 2 or 2.5 meters.
- (5) This badge is known to be worn by bomber crews. The cuff patch is worn by all officers, while the golden braid on the service cap is only worn by field grade officers.
- (6) Some of the motor vehicles of the units which arrived in early August were previously reported. [redacted] Most of them probably [redacted] previously observed at Parchim airfield.
- (7) Between 13 July and 3 August, three troop trains were dispatched from Parchim to Cottbus. [redacted] The fighter regiment [redacted] which left Parchim airfield in early August has not been observed since. In connection with the motor vehicles [redacted] observed in Cottbus it is believed that at least components of the ground personnel were transferred from Parchim to Cottbus.

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